



STIRRING STORIES & REAL ROMANCE!



№39-
JULY

Lovelorn

10¢

YOU'VE **WON**---MADE ME
ADMIT THAT I LOVE YOU! WHAT
MORE DO YOU WANT---TO
TAUNT---TO GLOAT?

THE WORLD
THOUGHT RITA DUNLOP
COLD, RUTHLESS--A STONY-
HEARTED FRIGIDAIRE WITH
AN ADDING-MACHINE FOR A
HEART! READ NOW SHE SUR-
PRISED EVEN HERSELF IN THE
MOST FASCINATING LOVE
STORY OF THE YEAR---

"MY BEAUTIFUL
BOSS!"



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CITY..... STATE.....

ORDER TODAY—MAIL COUPON NOW!

MAIL THIS COUPON

My BEAUTIFUL BOSS

NEVER A DAY'S WORK---AND MAGICAL ROMANCE WHEREVER I TURNED! THAT WAS MY LIFE UNTIL FATE IMPRISONED ME---AND CHOSE A WARDEN WITH A HEART OF ICE! THAT WAS RITA DUNLOP---MY BEAUTIFUL BOSS---WHOSE COLD LOVELINESS FROZE LOVE OUT!



COME BACK TO PARIS, CHERIE---TO FREEDOM, ROMANCE!



SNAP IT UP! GET FINISHED WITH THOSE ACCO'NTS!

DAD WAS PRESIDENT OF THE KING DEPARTMENT STORE---AND PROUD OF HIS ONLY SON---

JIM'S A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK! INSTEAD OF A JOB AT THE STORE WHEN HE FINISHED COLLEGE, HE TALKED ME INTO SENDING HIM TO FRANCE---TO STUDY THE LATEST MERCHANDISING TECHNIQUES! AND TO THINK THAT PEOPLE USED TO CALL HIM A PLAYBOY!



ER---MAYBE THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO TELL YOU CYRUS! A FRIEND IN PARIS SENT THIS CLIPPING TO ME---AND IT---SORT OF CONCERNS JIM---

WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HERE---GIVE ME THAT!





AND SO, AS JIM "CARTER", I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE DISPLAY DEPARTMENT! ONE LOOK AT MY NEW BOSS... AND INSTANTLY, I FELT BETTER!

WOW... I DIDN'T KNOW WOMEN EXECUTIVES CAME THIS GORGEOUS! VESSIR... BETWEEN US, THIS'LL BE A DEPARTMENT!

REALLY? SEE HERE, MR. CARTER... I DON'T KNOW WHY A RANK BEGINNER HAS BEEN FOISTED OFF ON ME, BUT LET'S GET THINGS STRAIGHT! I'M BOSS AROUND HERE-- AND YOU'D BETTER LEARN THAT QUICK!

FURTHERMORE, SPARE ME YOUR WITTICISMS! IF YOU'RE TO HOLD THIS JOB YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK... AND I'M JUST THE PERSON TO SEE THAT YOU DO!

UH-UH... A REGULAR SIMON LEGREE! I'D LIKE TO TAKE SOME OF THE STARCH OUT OF HER... BUT I DON'T CARE, BECAUSE DAD'S IN NO MOOD FOR TROUBLE! I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE IT FOR A WHILE... BUT BROTHER, IS SHE IN FOR A COME-UPPANCE!

IT TOOK IT ALL RIGHT--FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS--RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES! RITA DUNLOP WAS A NEW EXPERIENCE... A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN DEVOID OF HUMAN FEELING--A STONY-HEARTED TYRANT WITH A TONGUE THAT DRIPPED PURE ACID...

CLEAN UP THAT WORK BEFORE LEAVING, MR. CARTER--AND BE HERE AN HOUR EARLY IN THE MORNING!

YES, MISS DUNLOP!

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE CAN'T YOU BE MORE CAREFUL? YOU'RE AS CLUMSY AS AN OX!

SORRY, MISS DUNLOP!

NO... NO... NO! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? YOU'RE POSITIVELY STUPID!

ONE MORE WORD OUT OF HER--JUST ONE--

MY RESENTMENT MOUNTED TO FEVER PITCH! BEFORE LONG SHE OCCUPIED MY THOUGHTS NIGHT AND DAY...

AN ICICLE! BUT STILL--A CHALLENGE! THERE'S GOT TO BE A FEMALE UNDERNEATH THAT FROST--BUT HOW ON EARTH DO I GET TO IT? WAIT--WHY NOT PUT THIS THING ON A PERSONAL BASIS? SHE'LL NEVER LOOSEN UP AT WORK, BUT MAYBE...

I PUT MY BRAINSTORM INTO OPERATION...

MISS DUNLOP, I'VE... ER... GOT A COUPLE TICKETS TO THE NEW ICE SHOW, AND I WAS WONDERING IF WE COULDN'T SORT OF MAKE A NIGHT OF IT! HOW'S ABOUT IT...

RITA?

I'D THOUGHT HER PRETTY BAD BEFORE--BUT NOW SHE WAS LIKE AN UNCAPPED VOLCANO!

WHATEVER GAVE YOU THE IDEA THAT I WOULD WASTE AN EVENING WITH YOU? GET THIS THROUGH YOUR THICK HEAD--AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU'RE JUST A PIECE OF OFFICE FURNITURE!

WHAT DID IT... I WAS AT THE END OF MY ROPE! I HATED HER... AND SUDDENLY I WAS DETERMINED TO CRACK THAT VENEER ANY WAY I COULD! SNEER, CALCULATED SADISM DROVE ME ON...

MISS DUNLOP... SHUT UP!

WHAT ON EARTH...! LET GO OF ME... I-LET GO!



YOU...YOU BRUTE! I'LL HAVE YOU-MAFFF!



BRUTALLY I CRUSHED MY LIPS DOWN ON HERS! SHE FOUGHT LIKE A DEMON... BUT SUDDENLY WITHOUT WARNING, HER STRUGGLES WANED! SHE WAS RESPONDING... WITH A FIRE I HADN'T THOUGHT POSSIBLE!



BUT THEN... BREAKING ANGRILY FROM MY GRASP...

YOU...YOU... OH THERE AREN'T WORDS FINE ENOUGH FOR YOU! YOU DID THIS TO SHOW ME UP TO MAKE A FOOL OUT OF ME... TO REPAY ME FOR THE WAY I'VE TREATED YOU! ALL RIGHT I LOST MY HEAD FOR A MOMENT... BUT WHAT GIRL WOULD BE FOOL ENOUGH TO TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY... AN EMPTY-HEADED LADY KILLER WHO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TRUE LOVE MEANS!



WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU DARE SPEAK OF LOVE... YOU? FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WERE A WOMAN... BUT I WAS WRONG! YOU'RE A PERFECTLY-FUNCTIONING FRIGIDAIRE WITH A STOPWATCH FOR A HEART!...MAYBE YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO FIRE ME BUT THERE'S SOMETHING YOU OUGHT TO KNOW FIRST...



I KNOW YOU'RE MR. HIGH-AND-MIGHTY JIM KING! YOUR FATHER THOUGHT I MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE WITH YOU, SO HE TOLD ME THE WHOLE THING RIGHT AT THE START- KNOWING THAT I WOULD NEVER KOWTOW TO YOU ANYWAY! NO, I CAN'T FIRE YOU! BUT YOU CAN'T FIRE ME EITHER! AND IF YOU THINK ANYTHING YOU DO WILL MAKE ME QUIT THE JOB I'VE MADE MY CAREER, YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THINK COMING! TRY IT, DO YOUR WORST... I DARE YOU!



ENRAGED BEYOND ENDURANCE, I WAS NOW MORE THAN EVER DETERMINED TO GET EVEN! IN A BLIND FURY, I STAMPED BACK TO MY HOME TO BE GREETED BY...

DENISE! JIM-CHERIE! THIS PERSON FORCED HER WAY IN AND INSISTED ON WAITING!



AFTER THAT ICEBERG OF A RITA, THIS TEMPESTUOUS VOLCANO WAS A WELCOME CONTRAST! NOW MY COURSE WAS CLEAR- I'D PAY RITA BACK, MAKE HER SQUIRM BY SHOWING HER WHAT A REAL WOMAN WAS LIKE! IN FACT I WOULD RAM DENISE DOWN HER THROAT!



LOVEY PLAN WAS QUICKLY FORMED! I WOULD TAKE THE ATTACK--AND DENISE WOULD BE THE AMMUNITION! DAY AFTER DAY, ACCORDING TO PLAN, I HAD HER COME TO THE OFFICE, WHERE BEFORE RITA'S STONY EYES...



BUT AFTER A WEEK OF FRUITLESS EFFORT--

I'M GETTING NOWHERE FAST! RITA ACTS AS IF DENISE AND I WEREN'T ALIVE! THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN DO TO BRING HER TO HER KNEES, INSTEAD OF STALLING AROUND LIKE A DUMMY! WAIT A MINUTE--**HOLD EVERYTHING! DUMMY... THAT'S IT!**



IT WAS A BRILLIANT IDEA--AND NATURALLY, RITA DIDN'T LIKE IT WHEN I BROACHED IT TO HER--

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'RE GOING TO ARRANGE A SURPRISE DISPLAY IN OUR MAIN WINDOW? I'M STILL HEAD OF THIS DEPARTMENT--



YEP--BUT REMEMBER THAT I'M THE **OWNER'S SON!** I'M GOING TO ADVERTISE THIS DISPLAY IN ALL THE PAPERS FOR MONDAY NOON--AND UNTIL THEN ITS CONTENTS WILL BE A **SECRET** THAT ONLY I KNOW!

I BUILT UP CONSIDERABLE EXCITEMENT IN THE PAPERS ABOUT THE SECRET DISPLAY, AND WHEN THE UNVEILING CAME, THERE WAS QUITE A CROWD--BUZZING WITH ANTICIPATION--

WELL, WHEN ARE WE GONNA HAVE A LOOK?

WONDER WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THIS DISPLAY!



AND WHEN THE CURTAINS SWUNG ASIDE



THIS WAS MY INSPIRATIONAL IDEA! SINCE MY CAMPAIGN USING DENISE HADN'T WORKED WITH RITA IN PRIVATE... I HAD RESOLVED TO EXPOSE RITA TO PUBLIC RIDICULE, HOPING THIS TO REALLY GET UNDER HER SKIN! AND DID IT WORK!



YOU--YOU
--GET OUT
OF MY WAY!



LOOK...
IT'S THE
SAME GIRL!

HEY...
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?



HERE'S WHAT
I THINK OF
HER!



AND HERE'S
WHAT I THINK
OF YOU!



AND THIS
IS FOR GOOD
MEASURE!

RITA...
WAIT!

SLAP!

ID EXPECTED AND HOPED FOR REACTION... BUT NOTHING LIKE THIS RAW, UNLEASHED EMOTION! COULD IT BE THAT THERE HAD BEEN A REAL WOMAN LURKING BENEATH THAT FROSTY EXTERIOR, AFTER ALL? AS I PURSUED HER TO HER OFFICE...



RITA, I--I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO SAY! I DIDN'T
REALIZE...

G-GO
AWAY!
I--HATE
...YOU!

YOU'VE WON... WHAT MORE
DO YOU WANT? TO TAUNT...
TO GLOAT? I CAN'T STAND
ANY MORE OF THIS... EITHER
YOU GET OUT OF THIS
DEPARTMENT FOR GOOD
OR I QUIT!



I ADMIT I
WAS WRONG...
FOR THAT I'M
SORRY! BUT
YOU--YOU
CAN'T ADMIT
THAT MAYBE YOU
WERE WRONG, TOO!
BUT IF THAT'S HOW
YOU WANT IT, OKAY!
I'LL GET OUT OF
HERE FOR GOOD
...OUT OF
YOUR LIFE!

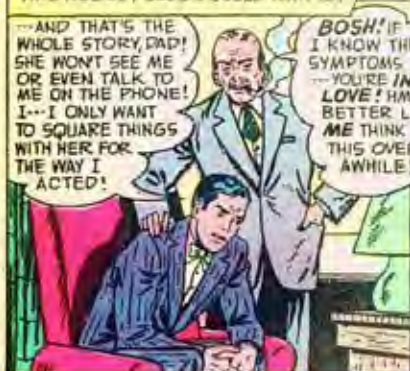
DESPERATELY, I THREW MYSELF INTO THE SOCIAL WHIRL, HOPING TO FORGET THE SOUND OF HER ACCUSING VOICE... TO BLOT OUT THE HEARTACHE IT CAUSED...



I KNEW WHAT THE TROUBLE WAS...FOR WAS IT NOT IN MY DREAMS...HAUNTING ME?



IT HAD BEEN YEARS SINCE I'D TAKEN DAD INTO MY CONFIDENCE... BUT NOW, THERE WAS NOBODY ELSE I COULD TURN TO!



SO THE TRUTH WAS FINALLY OUT! YES, I WAS IN LOVE--HAD BEEN EVER SINCE FIRST I FELT HER KISS--WITH A GIRL WHO WOULDN'T EVEN TALK TO ME NOW! SEVERAL DAYS LATER... IN DAD'S OFFICE--



OKAY, SO YOU **HATE** HIM--AND MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT YOU'RE TROUBLING HIS CONSCIENCE SO MUCH HE'S TAKEN TO MOONING AROUND THE HOUSE LIKE A RECLUSE! ALL I WANT YOU TO DO IS TO GO OUT THERE, TELL HIM THAT YOU **FORGIVE** HIM--AND GOODBYE!





AND TO THINK THAT I--USED DENISE TO TORTURE YOU! I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT A CAREER WOMAN COULDN'T BE EXPECTED TO--TO HAVE THE SAME WARMTH OR COLOR OR ROMANCE THAT SHE--

JIM!



RITA! YOU--

SO I'M JUST A COLD, COLOR-LESS, CAREER GIRL, AM I? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!



WH-WHAT'S COME OVER YOU, RITA? WHAT--ARE YOU GOING TO DO?



SOMETHING I'VE WANTED TO DO FOR A LONG TIME--BUT DIDN'T BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A PLAYBOY! IF I HADN'T COME HERE AND SEEN

WHAT I JUST SAW, I'D HAVE KEPT ON THINKING SO--BUT NOW--



THIS WAS A NEW RITA--FLAMING, TEMPESTUOUS--WHOSE BURNING KISS REVEALED ALL OF THE FIERY ROMANCE THAT TOO LONG HAD BEEN HIDDEN BENEATH A COLD EXTERIOR--

DO YOU--THINK DENISE--COULD DO--ANY BETTER?



WE WERE MARRIED, OF COURSE--WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE END OF THE STORY--EXCEPT FOR ONE DETAIL! IT WAS AFTER SOME TIME HAD PASSED--

WELL, KIDS--LET ME SAY HAPPY THIRD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY ONCE MORE! NOW I'LL HAVE TO BE GOING--MIND SEEING ME TO THE GATE, JIM?

SURE, DAD!



EVERY-THING HAS SURE WORKED OUT FINE, DAD--THANKS TO YOU!

YESSIR, SON--IT WAS AN INSPIRATION! SMARTEST THING I EVER DID--SENDING RITA TO CALL ON YOU JUST IN TIME TO SEE THAT CONTRIVED SCENE OF YOU PITCHING WOO TO THAT DUMMY! LIKE YOU SAY--IT SURE WORKED OUT FINE!

HOW TO MAKE A MAN MISERABLE!



GEORGE HAS COME A-COURTIN' BETSY... AND IS SHE THRILLED!



WE'LL LET YOU IN ON A SECRET! BETSY HAS LONGED FOR THIS MOMENT...

I'VE BEEN WANTING TO DATE YOU EVER SINCE WE MET!

OH, GEORGE, HAVE YOU... REALLY?



I HAD A FEELING THAT WE'D GET ALONG...

OH, WAIT A MINUTE, GEORGE!



AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW! GHE'S TRYING TO IMPRESS GEORGE WITH HER NEATNESS!

I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I'VE EMPTIED THIS ASHTRAY! THEN WE CAN TALK!



BUT THEN A RUMPLED CUSHION CATCHES BETSY'S EYE...

GO RIGHT ON WITH WHAT YOU WERE SAYING, GEORGE!

WELL...IT WASN'T VERY INTERESTING...



YIKES! FINGERPRINTS ON THE FURNITURE! WHAT WILL GEORGE THINK OF HER!

AS I WAS SAYING...OH, NEVER MIND! IT'S GETTING LATE...I'D BETTER RUN ALONG!

OH! MUST YOU?



SUCH A SHORT VISIT!

I WONDER WHAT WAS WRONG!

SHE'S MORE INTERESTED IN THAT DARNED HOUSE THAN SHE IS IN ME! WHAT A FUSS-BUDGET!

THE MORAL? BE PRETTY, BE DAINTY, BE SWEET! BUT DON'T BE OVERNEAT!

ILLUSTRATED BY

Mistaken LOVE

THIS WAS CLAIRE'S moment, the great moment she'd been dreaming of! Though he was right at her side, carrying her smartly matched luggage, Van seemed to be speaking to her, pleading with her, from a great distance.

"Darling, don't go away, please! It will be unbearable without you. Why won't you simply admit that you love me, say you'll marry me and stay put... with me?"

"I'm not going away forever," Claire's smile was absent. "Only for two weeks, Van!"

"That's what you say." His reproachful voice emphasized the last word only slightly, but she knew what Van was thinking, for she was thinking the very same. Even as the train carried her back to her home town, back to Guard City which she had left over a year ago, she thought...and hoped...

"Maybe I won't be coming back...at all...ever!" For Carl was there and she would be seeing him again, feeling the same quick response to his eyes, his voice, the very sight of him! Hoping he would just look at her, speak a few words to her! "And this time he will," Claire's heart told her. "because I'm not the same! I've changed...for him!"

It was quite true. Back in Guard City, Claire had been a nobody, a slim, pretty girl from a decent enough family, a bright, gay, smiling girl, but hardly in Carl's class! For Carl came of top-bracket family, where it was not so much money that counted but background.

To Claire, Carl had seemed so far away, moving with poised ease through a round of enviable social affairs, upper class business matters, moving in a circle of assured people who seemed to look right through her, or perhaps not even to see her!

"But he'll see me now!" Yes, he would see Claire, a new, smart girl, her prettiness groomed into beauty, the experience of a good job in smart city clothes giving her former gaiety sparkle and glamour! "Yes, Carl will see me...at last!" she breathed hopefully. And if he did see her, then farewell to the job and the city and Van! All very nice, of course, even nicer than nice...but hardly her lifelong dream!

Guard City hadn't changed very much. Mother and dad looked marvelous, were as thrilled to see her as she to see them! Some of the girls had married, but not many. And, of course, there had to be a party for Claire to welcome her return!

The big city dress, simple and clinging. The makeup, expertly applied. The sparkle of assurance and anticipation in her eyes. And then, the party! Eagerly, Claire's eyes sought him out...and found him!

"Hello, Carl!" Was her voice as shaky as her knees?

"Why, hello!" Carl revealed plainly his amazement at the sight of her. He was impressed and no mistake! From the very start of the evening, he stayed at her side, fascinated by her.

But something seemed to have happened to the old dream. Did Carl talk about nothing but his family? "When dad first came east" and "did you see the column about mother in the Courier?" Didn't he have any ideas of his own? Funny...how the excitement of him wore off so quickly, leaving so little regret. Funny...how her heart quickened at the sudden thought of the city and Van!

Funny...how mistaken she could have been...how happily mistaken!

Be Frank, now--what do you think of a girl who values money more than love--who says, "I never had romance--so I won't miss it!" But before you decide, better read *MY story!* Read how I was blinded by a dollar-sign--and almost became...

Short-Changed by Romance



TRY TO SEE IT MY WAY! TO BEGIN WITH, I WORKED IN A REAL ESTATE OFFICE-- WITH WEALTHY AND WEALTHY MEN ALL AROUND ME...



IT WAS ANITZI WHO FIRST PUT THE BIG IDEA INTO MY HEAD! HOW COULD I KNOW IT WAS TO TAKE ME FROM HAPPINESS TO THE DEEPEST ABYSS OF DESPAIR?



FROM THEN ON, I SPENT MOST OF MY SMALL EARNINGS ON CLOTHES AND BEAUTY PARLORS.



OH-- MA'MSELLE LOOKS LIKE A-- COUNTESS!



I DINED AT THE BEST RESTAURANTS...

I'LL HAVE THE FROG'S LEGS TONIGHT, HENRI-- WITH WINE SAUCE!

APPEARED IN THE "BEST" PLACES--



WHO IS THAT STUNNING GIRL?

AND WHAT'S SHE DOING-- ALONE?

UNTIL ONE DAY, MY EXPENSIVE CAMPAIGN PAID OFF!

EXCUSE ME-- I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET UP ENOUGH COURAGE TO MEET YOU-- AND...

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE SUCCEEDED, DOESN'T IT?



DAM BERRY WAS NICE-- HANDSOME-- AND WEALTHY! WHAT MORE COULD A GIRL ASK? SOON, I FOUND MYSELF LIKING HIM-- A LOT!



HOW DOES IT FEEL TO STRIKE OIL, DAN?

EXCITING, AT FIRST-- BUT WITH SIXTEEN PRODUCING WELLS, IT GETS MONOTONOUS!



LATER, AS WE STOOD ON THE MOONLIT TERRACE, MY TREMBLING HEART MADE ME HATE MYSELF-- FOR WHAT I WAS DOING!

DORA, MY DEAR-- IT'S SO WONDERFUL TO FIND A GIRL WHO ISN'T A GOLD DIGGER-- WHO ISN'T AFTER MY MONEY ALONE!

OH, DAN-- HOW CAN I TELL YOU THE TRUTH-- THAT I AM A-- GOLD DIGGER!

THEN CAME THAT MOMENT OF COMPLETE BLISS, HOMEWARD BOUND IN HIS LIMOUSINE! BELIEVE ME, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT HIS MONEY-- LIVED ONLY FOR THE ECSTASY OF HIS LOVE!

MY DARLING--

DAN, SWEETHEART, I'M NOT A GOLD DIGGER ANY MORE! IT'S YOU I LOVE-- NOT YOUR WEALTH!



THAT
GLORIOUS
EVENING
ENDED--I
PROMISED
DAN
ANOTHER
DATE--
AND
RETURNED
TO MY
DISMAL
WORLD OF
DECEPTION
AND LIES!

YOU LIVE AT
THE CARLTON
ARMS?--THAT'S
THE MOST
EXPENSIVE
PLACE IN
TOWN!

ER--YES, DAN--
I'LL BE WAITING
RIGHT HERE FOR
YOU--NEXT WEEK!

FEELING LIKE A FOOL, I HURRIED INTO THE
CARLTON ARMS--JUST IN CASE DAN
WAS WATCHING...

OOPS--
CAREFUL!

OH-- THAT DARNED
HANDBAG!

I FELL--RIGHT INTO A PAIR OF
POWERFUL ARMS THAT WENT
WITH THE STEELY GREY EYES SO
CLOSE TO MINE--

I'M--
SORRY...

I'M NOT--
AND CALL ME
"CAL"!

HE WAS STRANGELY INTRIGU-
ING, BUT NOTICING HIS CARE-
LESS APPEARANCE, I RE-
MEMBERED! I WAS LOOK-
ING FOR A RICH HUSBAND--
AND I'D FOUND ONE!

ER-- GUESS I'M
AT THE WRONG
ADDRESS...

WAIT!

HMM-- DORA DENHAM--
AND SHE LIVES IN THAT
OLD BUILDING
NEXT DOOR!

NOT UNTIL LATER DID I DISCOVER HOW
EASILY CAL HAD SEEN THROUGH MY
TRICKERY...

I'LL BET SHE WAS TRYING
TO HOOK THAT GUY-- MAKE
HIM THINK SHE HAS MONEY!
OH, WELL-- NONE OF MY
BUSINESS!

NEXT DAY, HE
RETURNED
THE ENVELOPE!
AGAIN, WHY
DID HE MAKE
MY SKIN
TINGLE SO?
--IT WAS
DAN
I LOVED!

BY THE WAY, IT'S
TIME FOR DINNER--
AND I KNOW AN
INEXPENSIVE
PLACE
CLOSE BY--

WELL, ALL
RIGHT!

WHY CAN'T
I SAY NO?

I COULDN'T DOWN MY CURIOSITY ABOUT THIS FASCINATING STRANGER-- SO...

YOU-- DON'T LIVE AT THE CARLTON ARMS, DO YOU?

WELL, YOU MIGHT SAY I-- UH-- SORT OF WORK THERE!



I THOUGHT-- "THE JANITOR"-- BUT WHEN HE ASKED ME TO GO TO A PENNY ARCADE, I DID-- AND HATED MYSELF FOR ENJOYING IT!

YOU BEAT MY SCORE-- AND I WAS AN AIR FORCE PILOT!

NONSENSE-- YOU LET ME BEAT YOU!



MAYBE IT WAS THE ALTITUDE-- BUT WHEN HE KISSED ME, LATER-- MY HEAD FELT LIGHT, MY KNEES WEAK!

YOU SEE-- YOU DON'T NEED MONEY TO HAVE FUN-- OR-- FALL IN LOVE!



I TORE MYSELF FROM HIS ARMS! I HAD TO-- QUICKLY!

DON'T TALK LIKE THAT! I-- I AM IN LOVE-- WITH SOMEONE ELSE!



I-- I MUSTN'T WEAKEN, NOT NOW! I WON'T SEE HIM AGAIN!



But WHEN YOU LIVE NEXT DOOR TO A PERSON, YOU DO SEE HIM-- AND YOU TRY NOT TO NOTICE THE HURT LOOK IN HIS EYES!

DORA-- I...

HELLO, CAL-- LOVELY DAY, ISN'T IT?



Then CAME THE NIGHT OF MY DATE WITH DAN! WHEN HE RODE UP IN HIS SWELL CAR, I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WAITING FOR HIM!



WHO ARE YOU?

ON YOUR WAY! AND DON'T BOTHER DORA AGAIN!

OH!



WHEN THE FIRST SHOCK WORE OFF, I RECOVERED MY VOICE-- BUT LOUD!

H-HOW DARE YOU? MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS-- OR...

BUT, DORA-- THIS CREEP'S A PHONEY! AND IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME-- LISTEN!

Then, AS I FURIED IN ANGER AND MORTIFICATION -- CAL TOLD DAN EVERYTHING!

-- AND SHE'S JUST A WORKING GIRL WHO LIVES NEXT DOOR-- NOT IN THE CARLTON ARMS!

WHY-- YOU CHEAP LITTLE GOLD DIGGER!



Then, THROUGH THE REMNANTS OF MY SHATTERED DREAM-- I HEARD THE VOICE OF DAN'S CHAUFFEUR...

NOW WHO'S GONNA PAY ME? THIS GUY HIRED THE CAR FOR THE EVENING!

Y. YOU MEAN HE DOESN'T OWN IT?

NAH! HE RENTS IT PRETTY OFTEN-- TRYIN' TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION ON RICH GALS -- THEN TAKIN' THEIR DOUGH! A GIGOLO!

I TRIED TO TELL YOU! EVERY RENTED CAR IN THIS TOWN HAS AN "O" ON THE LICENSE PLATE!

H-HOW COULD HE?



FOR ONE TREMULOUS MOMENT,
I RELENTED--WANTED TO TELL
HIM IT DIDN'T MATTER! BUT--

-- HE WOULD HAVE TO
SAY THE WRONG THING!

I DIDN'T SLEEP MUCH THAT NIGHT--
AND WAS LATE FOR WORK NEXT DAY!

YOU KNEW
WHAT I WAS
UP TO--
AND STILL YOU
LIKED
ME?

SURE--YOU'RE
THE KIND OF
SUCKER WHO
HAS TO LEARN
THE HARD
WAY!

.. AND
SO ARE
YOU!

SLAP!

PST-- DORA-- ON YOUR
TOES! C.A. LOGAN,
THE BIG REAL ESTATE
OWNER, IS IN THE
OFFICE!

MISS DENHAM--
BRING YOUR PAD
IN, PLEASE!

HM-- C.A. LOGAN'S
ONE OF THE RICHEST
BACHELORS IN TOWN!
THIS MAY BE MY
BIG CHANCE!

HAVE YOU GUESSED WHO C.A. LOGAN WAS?..
WELL, I DIDN'T-- UNTIL I SAW HIM!

MY CLIENT'S OFFER
IS HALF A MILLION
FOR THE CARLTON
ARMS!

IT'S A
GOOD
PROFIT--
I'LL TAKE
IT!

C.A.
LOGAN
--CAL!

I TOOK NOTES BLINDLY-- NOT CARING WHAT I
WROTE-- AND WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER...

I HEAR YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR A
RICH HUSBAND!
WILL I DO?

YOU WERE LAUGHING AT
ME ALL THE TIME!
YOU'RE LAUGHING
NOW!

WELL--
LAUGH
THAT
OFF!

MISS DENHAM!
YOU'RE FIRED!

WAM!

OH, HOW I HATED HIM! I TOLD MYSELF THAT MY TEARS WERE TEARS OF ANGER!

I'LL GET ANOTHER APARTMENT-- ANOTHER JOB! HE'LL NEVER FIND ME AGAIN!

BUT AS THE LONELY NIGHTS PASSED, I KNEW I MIGHT BE FOOLING THE WORLD-- BUT I WASN'T FOOLING MYSELF!

I'LL NEVER LET YOU KNOW, CAL-- BUT IT WAS YOU I LOVED-- FROM THE BEGINNING!

A FEW DAYS LATER CAME A BOMBHELL!

DAILY EYE
RICH BACHELOR GIVES AWAY FORTUNE!
C.A. LOGAN CLAIMS MONEY SCARED OFF SWEETHEART! HOPES POVERTY WILL BRING HER BACK!

THEN-- HE DOES LOVE ME!-- SO MUCH THAT-- HE'D RATHER HAVE ME THAN WEALTH! OH, WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN!

Want TO KNOW HOW LONG IT TOOK ME TO REACH THE CARLTON ARMS? --JUST A HUNDRED HEARTBEATS! -- I COUNTED 'EM!

OH, DARLING-- NOW I KNOW THAT MONEY CAN'T BUY LOVE-- SO I'M GIVING YOU MINE!
WELL, THEN -- GIVE, SWEET-- HEART-- AND YE SHALL RECEIVE!

A FEW BLOCKS AWAY...

WHO DID YOU SAY C.A. LOGAN GAVE HIS FORTUNE TO?
WHY-- TO MRS. C.A. LOGAN!

WE-- WE'LL BE SO HAPPY, DARLING-- EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE POOR!

WE SURE WILL, HONEY-- EVEN THOUGH I DON'T HAVE A CENT TO MY NAME!

"O.A.O!"

THOSE THREE LITTLE letters, "O.A.O.", stood for "one and only", as Patty Hilton knew so well! She knew it because only the night before, at the Junior Dance, Bob Banks had led her to the edge of the dance floor, where they would have more privacy, and had whispered, "Patty, will you be my O.A.O.? I mean... you know..."

"Gosh, Bob, I... I'd love to!" Patty had blurted, and then she'd turned almost as pink as the corsage of sweetheart roses at her waist. Imagine, admitting right off that you liked a boy that much!

But Bob had seemed to find nothing wrong in her quick confession. He'd been delighted, in fact. "Wow! Now you're my steady date and I don't have to worry about asking you any more. You've sure been on my mind, Patty, even during math class!"

On thinking the matter over the next day, Patty was thrilled. Bob was coming over that very afternoon for a game of ping-pong in the basement and then... over to The Honey Bun for malts! It was awfully nice to have your own O.A.O., especially when he happened to be Bob Banks!

"That's sure a mean serve you have," Bob complimented Patty after their round of ping-pong, when they had taken a table for two at The Honey Bun. "Couple of malts, Joel!"

"Well, well, well, will you look at who's twosomeing!" The speaker was Jimmy Crandall, who'd been in Patty's class for ages, but who had never seemed to know she was on earth. Now, he was definitely interested. "Mind if I join you, kids?"

Patty felt suddenly very fluttery and attractive. Mmmm... first Bob, and now Jimmy! She wished she was wearing her blue sweater and her little string of pearls.

"Hey, you're cute-looking, Patty!" Jimmy was saying as though he'd made a

new discovery. "How come we've never gotten together?"

From a table in the rear, someone called to Bob, who excused himself, leaving Patty alone with Jimmy. "Don't listen to that wolf!" he warned jestingly as he left.

But Patty *was* listening! "I'm surprised at you, chick!" Jimmy said. "What are you wasting time with a guy like him for?" He motioned in the direction of Bob's back. "Everybody knows he's a grind! He even studies for exams! And, boy, the way he takes that delivery job of his so seriously! Honestly, it's a laugh!"

The fluttery side of Patty became even more so, as she found herself agreeing with Jimmy. She said nothing, but as she listened, she thought, "Bob is sort of quiet, I guess! Jimmy's much... much... much more... exciting!"

"Think it over, sweetmeat, I've gotta go! Besides, Bob's coming back and who wants to talk to him?"

Patty was strangely quiet as Bob took his seat again. "Hi! I'm back!" he announced. "Or didn't you even know I was gone?"

Was this the time to tell Bob that she'd thought things over and decided in favor of another O.A.O.? Patty opened her mouth to speak, but Bob, offering her a cookie, interrupted. Instead of saying what she had meant to, Patty asked, "Bob, what do you think of Jimmy?"

"Him?" Bob looked thoughtful. "I guess he's all right. Why?"

Suddenly, Patty felt happier than she'd felt all afternoon. Bob had answered her, told her all she wanted to know! For Jimmy had been cruelly critical, making fun of Bob in his absence, while Bob was too nice to do the same!

"Never mind," she smiled. "It's not important! I just wondered whether he'd ever find his O.A.O., and... I don't think he will!"

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What Would HE Say ABOUT YOU?

IT TAKES TWO TO MAKE A DATE AND TWO TO MAKE A ROMANCE SO DON'T BE TOO SURE THERE'S ONLY ONE SIDE TO A LOVE STORY!

HERE'S A FAMILIAR AFTER-DATE SESSION...

DID YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME LAST NIGHT, ELLIE? WAS HE NICE?

NICE? HE WAS IM-POSSIBLE! I'LL NEVER DATE HIM AGAIN!



HONESTLY, FOR A NICE-LOOKING GUY, HE SURE IS BORING! HE HARDLY SAID A WORD ALL EVENING! FURTHERMORE, I THINK HE'S STINGY... AND IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN'T STAND.



NOW, LET'S SEE JUST WHAT DID HAPPEN THE NIGHT BEFORE.

SO I TOLD MY BOSS THAT IF HE WANTED ME TO TAKE HIS LETTERS, SIT AT THE SWITCHBOARD, FILE THE CORRESPONDENCE AND WRITE ORDERS, HE WAS PLAIN MISTAKEN! AFTER ALL, I TOLD HIM... ETC. ETC.



ELLIE STOPPED TALKING ONLY LONG ENOUGH TO LOOK

NOW THAT'S THE KIND OF JEWELRY A GIRL COULD REALLY GO FOR!

SORT OF EXPENSIVE, WOULDN'T YOU THINK?

JEWELRY



YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT A MAN TO BE CHATTERING AWAY ABOUT HIS DATE AS YOU ARE, ELLIE! BUT SUPPOSE HE DID? WHAT WOULD HE SAY ABOUT YOU?

HE MIGHT BE SAYING

AND TALK! SHE DIDN'T GIVE ME A CHANCE TO SAY A WORD! WHAT'S MORE, I THINK SHE'S OUT FOR GOLD. SHE WALKED ME RIGHT UP TO A JEWELRY STORE AND...



WHO DOESN'T WANT TO BE SEEN BY WHOM AGAIN! IT'S TOO BAD ELLIE'S STORY IS SO ONE-SIDED! BY OVERLOOKING HERSELF... SHE MAY BE OVERLOOKING ROMANCE!

THE END

IN THEIR DESPERATE LONELINESS, GIRLS ALL TOO OFTEN FORGET THAT THE MALES ARE ALSO WRESTLING WITH THE TRICKY PROBLEM OF HOW TO MEET A MATE!

HOW IN THE WORLD CAN I MEET MEN IN A RESPECTABLE WAY?

HOW IN BLAZES DO I GO ABOUT MEETING A NICE GIRL?

**Lonely
FOR
LOVE?**

ONCE YOU REALIZE THAT MOST MEN ARE AS INTERESTED IN MARRIAGE AS YOU ARE, YOU WON'T BE CONTENT TO STAY IN YOUR SHELL...NO MATTER HOW PLEASANT YOUR DAY-DREAMS OF ROMANCE ARE!



INSTEAD, YOU'LL MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE FOR ROMANCE...BY GOING TO THE PLACES WHERE YOU'LL MEET MEN!



NIGHT CLASSES ARE EXCELLENT STAMPING-GROUNDS FOR CUPID...PROVIDING YOU CHOOSE COURSES IN WHICH FEW WOMEN ARE ENROLLED! DON'T BE AFRAID THAT YOU AREN'T SMART ENOUGH...BECAUSE THE AVERAGE MALE WILL BE DELIGHTED TO HELP YOU! IN FACT, YOUR VERY HELPLESSNESS WILL PROBABLY BE APPEALING TO HIM!



OR YOU MIGHT JOIN AN ART COURSE, EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T THINK YOU HAVE AN OUNCE OF TALENT? IN THESE DAYS OF SURREALISTIC ART, A LACK OF TALENT MIGHT EVEN BE A HELP!



JUST MOVED INTO A NEW COMMUNITY? A CHURCH MAY BE THE BEST PLACE TO MEET THE MAN YOU'RE DESTINED TO MARRY...OR AT LEAST, HIS PARENTS!

WE'RE SO GLAD TO KNOW YOU, MY DEAR! YOU MUST COME AND VISIT US NEXT WEEKEND... OUR SON, ROBERT, WILL BE HOME FROM COLLEGE!



YES, YOU CAN NEVER TELL WHERE ACQUAINTANCESHIPS WILL LEAD...IF YOU KEEP YOURSELF CONSTANTLY AVAILABLE FOR ROMANCE!



SIMILARLY, HERE'S ANOTHER HINT! MAKE IT A POINT TO CULTIVATE THE FRIENDSHIP OF GIRLS WHO HAVE BROTHERS!

ARE YOU THE ONLY CHILD IN YOUR FAMILY?

OH, NO, I'VE GOT AN OLDER BROTHER...



SOONER OR LATER, YOU'LL MEET UP WITH THAT BROTHER...AND HE MAY BE MR. RIGHT!

SAY, SIS, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU HAD A FRIEND LIKE HER?



WHETHER YOU LIVE IN A LARGE CITY OR A SMALL TOWN, THERE ARE BOUND TO BE ORGANIZATIONS RANGING FROM ASTRONOMY SOCIETIES TO BICYCLE AND HIKING CLUBS...WHICH USUALLY HAVE A PREPONDERANCE OF MALE MEMBERS...AND THEREFORE A MINIMUM OF FEMININE COMPETITION! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?



YES, IF YOU MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE FOR AMOUR IN THESE WAYS, THE CHANCES ARE YOU'LL SOON BE HAVING A HAPPY NONEMOON...WITH THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE!

I LONGED FOR SECURITY AS WELL AS A SWEETHEART, FOR A FORTUNE AS WELL AS A FAMILY—
FOR I THOUGHT THE ROAD TO HAPPINESS WAS PAVED WITH GOLD INSTEAD OF LOVE! AND
IT WAS ALMOST TOO LATE BEFORE I LEARNED THAT THE GREATEST RICHES OF ALL WERE THE

Riches of Romance



WHO CAN KNOW THE ANGUISH OF A CHILD REJECTED
BY HER PLAYMATES? WHO BUT THE CHILD HERSELF
CAN FEEL THE PAIN AND WRETCHEDNESS OF NOT
BELONGING? I, RITA SLOANE, LEARNED IT ALL—



ALTHOUGH THE OPEN TAUNTS SUBSIDED AS I
GREYED OLDER, I BEGAN TO EXPERIENCE AN EVEN
WORSE FORM OF SOCIAL OSTRACISM--A CONSTANT
GAUNTLET OF MALICIOUS WHISPERS--



YES, ALL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL, DECENT BOYS SHUNNED ME, AFRAID OF RUINING THEIR REPUTATIONS BY BEING SEEN WITH ME—WHILE THE NOT-SO-DECENT BOYS ACCOSTED ME EVERY CHANCE THEY COULD!



AW, C'MON—DON'T BE SO STINGY WITH THOSE KISSES, BABY!

GET... GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME... LET ME GO!

I ALWAYS MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM SITUATIONS LIKE THAT—BUT THE SCARS THEY LEFT ON MY PRIDE AND SELF-ESTEEM BURNED DEEP!

WHAT CRIME HAVE I COMMITTED TO BE TREATED LIKE THIS? IT'S ALL DAD'S FAULT THAT I'M REGARDED THAT WAY! HE'S MY FATHER, AND I HAVE TO LOVE HIM—BUT WHY COULDN'T HE BE DIFFERENT?

RITA, HONEY—WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU CRYING?



OH, DAD, I... I WANT SO MUCH TO BE LIKE OTHER GIRLS—TO... TO BE RESPECTABLE! I'D GIVE ANYTHING IF I HAD A DECENT HOME I COULD INVITE BOYFRIENDS TO—BUT I GUESS THE NICE ONES WOULDN'T EVEN COME!

I GUESS I HAVEN'T BEEN A VERY GOOD FATHER, RITA—I'M NOT EVEN A SUCCESSFUL BOOKIE! YOU'VE KNOWN NOTHING BUT INSECURITY AND SHAME ALL YOUR LIFE BECAUSE OF ME—BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOUR LIFE BE RUINED ANY LONGER!



IF YOU'D GIVE ANYTHING TO BE RESPECTABLE, THEN I GUESS I OUGHT TO DO ANYTHING TO MAKE YOUR WISH COME TRUE—AND IT WILL COME TRUE, I PROMISE YOU!

OH, DAD—IF... IF I COULD ONLY BELIEVE YOU!



I DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM AS TIME WENT ON! BUT FINALLY CAME THAT MIRACULOUS DAY WHEN—

RITA, HONEY—WE'RE RICH! I MADE A KILLING AT THE TRACK TODAY—PARLAYED MYSELF RIGHT INTO A FORTUNE! PACK YOUR SUITCASE—WE'RE LEAVING RIGHT NOW FOR FLORIDA—AND FOR A NEW LIFE! C'MON—HURRY!

OH, DAD—HOW WONDERFUL!



THIS WAS THE DAY I'D WAITED FOR, THE CHANCE TO START AFRESH IN A NEW CITY, WHERE NOBODY KNEW MY BACKGROUND, WHERE ALL MY DREAMS MIGHT COME TRUE!

NOTHING CAN EVER GO WRONG NOW—NOTHING!







THE DAYS SPED BY—ENRICHED BY INNUMERABLE PREPARATIONS FOR THE BIGGEST EVENT OF MY LIFE—MY WEDDING! AND WHEN THE FATEFUL AFTERNOON FINALLY ARRIVED...



AGHAST, I WAS UNABLE TO BELIEVE MY EARS—BUT ONE LOOK AT MY FATHER'S FACE TOLD ME THE AWFUL TRUTH!



BUT THERE WERE FURTHER BLOWS TO COME—



I PHONED KEITH AND TEARFULLY CONFESSED THE AWFUL NEWS! I HAD ANTICIPATED WORDS OF LOVE AND COMFORT—BUT ALL I HEARD WAS THE SOUND OF MY WHOLE WORLD CRASHING ABOUT MY HEAD!



I... I'VE LOST EVERYTHING—MONEY, RESPECTABILITY, LOVE—EVERYTHING! AND I'M WORSE OFF NOW THAN BEFORE—BECAUSE NOW THAT I'VE KNOWN LOVE AND SECURITY, I WANT THEM MORE THAN EVER!



SOMEHOW, I MANAGED TO RECOVER FROM THE WRECKAGE OF MY WORLD AND DREAMS! AND WHEN THE RACETRACK AUDITORS FINISHED THEIR BUSINESS, ALL I HAD LEFT WAS THE BOAT... THEY COULDN'T TAKE THAT BECAUSE IT HADN'T BEEN BOUGHT WITH THE STOLEN MONEY, AND BECAUSE IT WAS REGISTERED IN MY NAME!

I'VE GOT TO GO ON LIVING SOMEHOW... AND THE ONLY WAY TO GET FUNDS IS TO SELL THE BOAT! I'LL PUT AN AD IN THE PAPERS... AND MEANWHILE, I'LL USE IT AS A HOUSEBOAT!



BUT THE MARKET FOR YACHTS WAS LIMITED! I BEGAN TO HAVE VISIONS OF GAWING AT THE ROPES TO KEEP FROM STARVING... WHEN ANOTHER VISION MOVE INTO VIEW!

GOLLY, WHAT A HANDSOME GUY!

HI, THERE... YOU THE OWNER OF THIS BOAT FOR SALE?



I'M MONTE LARSON! I CAN'T AFFORD TO BUY THE BOAT... BUT I HAVE A PROPOSITION! YOU SEE, I'M ON THE TRAIL OF SUNKEN PIRATE TREASURE OFF ONE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS... I'LL PAY YOU A PERCENTAGE OF THE TREASURE IF AND WHEN I FIND IT FOR THE USE OF YOUR BOAT!

HE'S IRRESPONSIBLE, FOOTLOOSE... THE KIND OF MAN A GIRL SHOULD NEVER HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH!



I'M SORRY... I NEED MONEY NOW! I BARELY HAVE ENOUGH FOR MY NEXT MEAL... SO OBVIOUSLY I CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR OFFER!

WELL, MAYBE I CAN DREAM UP A BETTER ONE! LOOK, YACHTS AREN'T EASY TO SELL... WHY NOT HAVE DINNER WITH ME? - WE CAN DISCUSS THIS MORE FULLY!



I KNEW I SHOULDN'T ACCEPT... BUT AFTER ALL, WHAT DID I HAVE TO LOSE? IMAGINE, THEN, MY SHOCK WHEN HE LED ME TO --

MY IMPERIAL PALACE, MADAME! SORRY THE BUTLER ISN'T HERE TO ROLL OUT THE PURPLE CARPET FOR SUCH A LOVELY PRINCESS. BUT HE WENT DOWN WITH THE LAST BOAT I SMASHED UP IN THE CARIBBEAN!

HE'S LIKE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR... ALIVE, BOUVOYANT VITAL... AND ATTRACTIVE!



BUT WHEN I SAW HOW HE LIVED, I KNEW I WAS RIGHT ABOUT HIM... HE WAS THE TYPE NO GIRL COULD EVER FIND SECURITY WITH! BUT HE INTERESTED ME - STRANGELY... AND I FOUND MYSELF DRAWN TO HIM AGAINST MY WILL AS HE TOLD ME ABOUT HIMSELF!

YES, MY FATHER WAS AN INVETERATE FORTUNE-HUNTER, TOO... UNTIL HE TANGLED WITH A SHARK WHILE DIVING TO INVESTIGATE A SUNKEN SPANISH GALLEON! I INHERITED ALL THE ANCIENT MAPS DAD SPENT A LIFETIME ACQUIRING... BUT UP UNTIL NOW, I'VE ONLY MANAGED TO DIG UP A FEW MINOR TRINKETS!





I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS THE BREATHTAKING SUNSET, OR THE THRILLING TOUCH OF HIS HAND AGAINST MINE THAT EVENING— BUT NEVER HAD I FELT SO UTTERLY HELPLESS WITH A MAN— SO COMPLETELY BEWITCHED!



BUT WHERE, MY ACHING HEART ASKED, WHERE WAS THIS NEWFOUND BLISS LEADING TO? EVEN IF HE DID LOVE ME ENOUGH FOR MARRIAGE, ALL I COULD EVER EXPECT WITH HIM WAS THE SOUL-RACKING EXISTENCE OF ENDLESS INSECURITY— AND I HAD HAD ENOUGH OF THAT KIND OF LIFE! THEN, FIGHTING MYSELF—



WE PARTED ANGRILY... BUT WHEN MONTE DIDN'T CALL THE NEXT DAY, I FOUND MYSELF ACHING WITH LONELINESS FOR HIM! I KNEW I HAD TO SEE HIM AGAIN -- SO I SOUGHT HIM OUT!



AND SO OFF WE WENT -- WITH MY GLUM SPIRITS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO MONTE'S JUBILANCE!



FINALLY, AT OUR DESTINATION OFF THE TORTUGAS...



EMERGENCY WAS SCARCELY THE WORD FOR THE SITUATION THAT AROSE TEN MINUTES LATER!



I'N THAT BRIEF MOMENT OF MONTE'S DEADLY DANGER, I KNEW THE FULL EXTENT OF MY LOVE FOR HIM -- KNEW THAT I COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT HIM! BUT WHEN I YANKED AT THE LINE...





Then, AS I SAW THE OTHER SHARK VICIOUSLY ATTACK THE WOUNDED ONE, I KNEW THAT WE WERE SAVED!



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